ART, LIFE AND FENG SHUI

ORGANIZE YOUR WAY TO BEING A BETTER ARTIST

Is your flat file full of half-finished works you hope to get back to some day, but probably never will? Have you lost track of your favorite filament deep in the recesses of your art bin? Have you lost track of your art bin?

Then it may be time you heard from Debbie Bowie, which works out well because she's our speaker at the March 16 meeting.

Bowie is a professional organizer (she has the certification to prove it), the founder and executive director of the Rock Scissors Paper Institute and is committed to teaching people how making simple changes to their environment will result in amazing changes in their lives.

She understands the challenges creative people often have in keeping an orderly studio, or life.

"The point that I want people to walk away from my speech with," Bowie said, "is that their creativity, productivity and prosperity are directly affected by the condition of their environment.

"What they have in their space and how it's arranged affect what happens in their life, including what happens in their art."

Using the principles of feng shui (did I mention she's a student and) (Continued on page 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We were sorry to lose one of our members, Babs Bowie, who passed away on Feb. 15. For those of us who had an opportunity to know Babs, we will miss her. Janice Clark has written a beautiful tribute on Page 3.

Congratulations to Diana Robinson and Elizabeth Eubanks, two of our members who have just purchased For Art's Sake Gallery and Studio from Anne Chaddock. We wish you both many years of great success!

Plein Air seems to be the buzz word among artists lately. JRAL has a group painting trip to Lewis Ginter Park on April 20.

Besides the Virginia Plein Air Painters who paint monthly (virginia pleinairpainters.com), other opportunities to paint outside include the Rassawek Spring Jubilee May 19-20 (rassawek.com), and a "Paint-Out" at The Montpelier Center and Sycamore Tavern at 10 a.m., March 26.

Some of you may have entered "Plein Air Richmond" hosted by Brazier Gallery June 17 - 23. (pleinairrichmond.com) If you aren't among the 50 artists selected to participate, all artists are welcomed and encouraged to attend "Fast & Fresh" (aka Quick Draw), 9 am-noon, Saturday, June 23 on Monument Ave.

So much to do, so little time. Happy Spring!
CLEARING CLUTTER AND GETTING ORGANIZED

(Continued from page 1)

practitioner of the ancient Chinese art of placement to arrange one's space and enhance one's life?), Bowie will help identify environmental factors that could be blocking our efforts to create art.

"My goal," she said, "is to open your eyes to the impact that clutter and disorganization could be having on your productivity and success as an artist."

Bowie's background includes degrees in art history - BA from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, MA from the University of Utah - and an MS in rehabilitation counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has also had training in Pyramid School Feng Shui, Black Hat Sect Feng Shui, and she is a graduate of the Western School of Feng Shui.

Her organizing skills served her well in work as an architectural historian, first in Utah, then for the Division of Historic Landmarks in Virginia.

She will draw on all of that training and experience for her presentation to the art league.

"I will make a case for clearing clutter and getting organized by introducing them to feng shui principles and information about the energy of objects," Bowie said.

"Being messy is a choice for many artists, but feng shui wisdom offers information that often motivates people to be more conscious of the condition of their space and its effect on their performance."

The meeting, at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Patterson and Forest avenues, will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m. — or as soon as we can get organized.

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**Program Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| March 16   | Meeting program       | Debbie Bowie of Rock Scissors Paper Institute speaks on "Organize to Increase Creativity."
|            |                       | Enjoy a day of painting at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Garden opens at 9 a.m. Admission: $11, seniors $10, members free. Mary Kent will be in the Visitors Center lobby from 9:30 to 10:30 to help pair garden non-members with members who have guest passes to share. She will also have LGBG guidelines for painting in the garden. Lunch is available in the Robins Tea House or the Garden Café. Garden details and directions: www.lewisginter.org |
| April 20   | Outing                |                                                                       |
| May 18     | Annual meeting, JRAL Member Challenge | Artist Sally Bowing, who teaches at VCU and the VMFA studio school, will critique the "Famous Painting Challenge." |
NEWS, NOTES FOR AND ABOUT JRAL ARTISTS

Honors

Patty Mochary’s “Santa Fe” won best in show in For Art’s Sake annual adult juried show at the James Center. Other award winners from JRAL were: Anne Negus, first place, oil; Diana Robinson, first place, pastel; Elizabeth Hood, third place, pastel; Harvey Hinson, first place, acrylic; Carol Matuschek, second place, acrylic; and Harriet Baker, third place, acrylic.

Two of Helen Sanders paintings won second and third place at the Virginia Orchid Society’s annual show at Strange’s Greenhouse.

Nancy Foley’s painting “Orange Rules” was selected for the 2012 Virginia Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition at the Charles H. Taylor Arts Center in Hampton, April 14 to May 27. This is her third year to be included, which gives her signature status in the VWS.

Member shows

“Love Our Critters” Art Exhibition is at the event, thanked the artists and said “The show looks wonderful. Please stop by St Paul’s to view the show, have lunch and listen to the variety of preachers every weekday until April 4. Bid on the art while you’re there, too.”

Recent sales

Patty Mochary sold two paintings at her show at Zeus Gallery Café.

Paulette Nesbitt sold “Parrot Pair,” which took first place in last year’s JRAL show at the James Center. She also sold two prints of a watercolor, “At the Globe,” which took third place in Sue Stuller’s student show at Crossroads.

Anne Sampson sold five paintings at her show at For Art’s Sake.

Yvonne Wilson completed a commission of three paintings. The buyer had a dinner party to celebrate her work with family and friends.

REMEMBERING BARBARA “BABS” BOWIE

I met Babs Bowie a couple of years ago when we were seatmates on a James River Art League bus trip to the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk. She had recently moved to Richmond from Northern Virginia and was eager to meet new friends and become active in our group.

It was an enjoyable, albeit unusual, field trip for many reasons: The bus driver had an attitude, the docent treated us like children and the staff herded us to ever-changing luncheon and meeting places. Babs found all of this initially amusing, becoming downright comical as the day progressed.

As the docent, demanding our undivided attention, spent 30 to 45 minutes explaining just two paintings, I suddenly felt a “hook” tug on my arm. Babs was pulling me away with her cane. “Come with me,” she whispered, “or we’ll never get to see anything.” Off we slipped like the two misbehaving children the docent probably thought we were. We had a wonderful time discovering this delightful museum, often ducking out of sight when accidentally running into our original guide. I could hardly contain myself at Bab’s whispered wisecracks. We talked and laughed all day and had a wonderful time.

A month or so later, my husband and I were at Crossroads Gallery for an opening. I was drawn to an unusual piece; a red monotype print entitled “The Interview.” I told my husband, “this is what I want for Christmas.” Looking closer, I discovered it was by my friend, Babs Bowie. And yes, my husband returned, purchased the piece, and surprised me with it Christmas morning. I excitedly called Babs and told her of my gift. It is one of my most treasured pieces of art.

We were all saddened by the news of Babs’ death on Feb. 15. She had been a member since 2009 but, because of health issues, she was unable to attend meetings regularly.

Babs was a very creative, talented artist and such a fun person to be around – her obituary spoke of her “quirky and delightful sense of humor.” She was a credit to our league and will be sorely missed.

— Janice Clark
The April 20 meeting of the James River Art League will be a painting outing to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. To give you an idea of the artistic possibilities -- or to refresh your memories of good times past -- here is how various JRAL artists have captured the beauty of the garden.
AT LEWIS GINTER GARDEN

Rosemary McKnight

Carol Matuschek

Mary Kent

Carol Matuschek

Rosemary McKnight

Mary Kent

Stella Jones

JRAL - JAMES RIVER ART LEAGUE
WOLF KAHN'S AMERICA: AN ARTIST'S TRAVELS

It's not often that we get an opportunity to understand a renowned artist's work through his own words and thoughts. But in this book, described by Wolf Kahn as a travel book, we see his oils and pastels through his stories and anecdotes of the places across America where he painted.

This book is filled with fascinating and humorous reminiscences of the places he visited over a 50-year span, illustrated by over a hundred gorgeous paintings he created from his travels.

But most important to his artist readers, he also talks about his creative process, leaving us with noteworthy and provocative thoughts to influence our own practices.

For instance, in his chapter titled Barns, he says, "I don't go to places to see anything pre-selected. I like to be taken by surprise. It is bad enough that there is the tendency we all share to look for what we already know. We take for ourselves those parts of the world that have been assigned to us by others, because they can see that we already know them... My innate perversity saves me [from being considered a barn painter]. That, and the knowledge that, to be an artist, one shouldn't merely fulfill expectations."

Following this is a great story about how he nevertheless came to paint one of his most iconic barn images while visiting friends in Virginia ("Green Barn in Warrenton, Virginia") by being inspired by the uniqueness of color, structure and placement of the building.

The book is filled with gems like this that make us consider the why of what we do as artists, as much as the what and where on which we normally focus.

And we're given the rare opportunity to experience places across America through Wolf Kahn's unique perspective and striking paintings.

— Elizabeth Hood
THE TRADITION CONTINUES AT FOR ART'S SAKE

For years Anne Chaddock's For Art's Sake Gallery and Studio has had a significant influence over the artists of the James River Art League.

League members have developed their talents in classes there, have shown their work in the gallery, have taken advantage of the art reproduction and framing services.

And with Anne's retirement in February, two members of the league — Elizabeth Eubanks and Diana Robinson — have taken over For Art's Sake.

In the division of labor, Elizabeth handles the educational component and Diana takes care of the business side, although as in any small business, the lines sometimes blur.

But the focus remains clear. They are dedicated to continuing the traditions and ideals Anne fostered some 35 years ago — that the artists come first, that it is important to tap into their interests and creativity and to provide the training and services which will help them improve and succeed.

Although this particular venture is new to Elizabeth and Diana, they've been associated with For Art's Sake for 8-10 years, first as students. Diana was also gallery manager for about five years and Elizabeth has been teaching there for three.

The studio offers seven adult classes, a children's class, summer art camp and a full schedule of workshops. The studio classes have about 100 students.

Upcoming workshops are: "Wine and Design" with Elizabeth on March 20, "Creative Jewelry" with Diana on April 28, and "Alla Prima Painting from Life" with Betsy Kellum on May 18-20.

The gallery has shows by various artists, including many JRAL members.

The current exhibition is a collection of work by JRAL member Betty Eddowes.

For details about classes, gallery shows or custom reproduction and framing services, go to the Website: forartssakegallery.com

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EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>About This Exhibit</th>
<th>Important Dates and Info</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Giles Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>March 9–April 30</td>
<td>Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., March 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5200 Grove Ave</td>
<td>No commission</td>
<td>Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., April 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
<td>25 artists, 1 painting each</td>
<td>No prices on cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Art's Sake</td>
<td>Size Limits: 21&quot; tall / 35&quot; wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>8538 Patterson Ave.</td>
<td>April 30–May 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henrico, VA</td>
<td>30% commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Center</td>
<td>20 artists, 2 paintings each</td>
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<tr>
<td>1051 E. Cary St.</td>
<td>June 2 – 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
<td>No commission</td>
<td>Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., June 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Judged Exhibit</td>
<td>Max 70 paintings, 1 per artist</td>
<td>Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., June 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenmore Yoga</td>
<td>Panel width 37&quot;</td>
<td>Reception: 2-4 p.m., June 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>10442 Ridgefield Pkwy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henrico, VA</td>
<td>August 27 – August 22</td>
<td>Drop off: 1-2 p.m., June 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paul's Episcopal Church</td>
<td>30% commission</td>
<td>Pick up: 1-2 p.m., August 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>815 E. Grace St.</td>
<td>30 artists, 1-2 paintings each</td>
<td>No reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
<td>August 29 – September 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>SunTrust Bank</td>
<td>30 artists, 1-2 paintings each</td>
<td>Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., Aug. 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>919 E. Main St.</td>
<td>August 29 – September 29</td>
<td>Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Sept. 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
<td>30 artists, 1-2 paintings each</td>
<td>Reception: 5-8 p.m., Sept. 7</td>
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<td>Tuckahoe Library</td>
<td>October 1–31</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901 Starling Dr.</td>
<td>No commission</td>
<td>Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., Oct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henrico, VA</td>
<td>30 artists, 1-2 paintings each</td>
<td>Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Oct. 31</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No commission</td>
<td>No prices on cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 artists, 2 paintings each</td>
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Diana Robinson, Gallery Co-Chair: 741-5550 (H), 512-9389 (C); dnr36@comcast.net
Kate Towler, Gallery Co-Chair: 565-2606 (H), 432-4188 (C); katetowler@verizon.net
Gigi Vranian, Exhibit Chair: 784-8087 (H), 337-3720 (C); vranian@comcast.net

NOTE: Sign-up is a must for all exhibits. Please call Gigi if you sign up but can't make it. Schedule is subject to change.
THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF JRAL

The James River Art League board has admitted five new members. Rebecca Rose has been a graphic artist in Richmond and North Carolina. She studied fine arts at Averett University and fashion art and design at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Barbara Lilley studied drawing at Clayton State College in Georgia, watercolor with Frank Saunders in North Carolina and was a student of Anne Chaddock’s for eight years. She has shown with the Charlotte (NC) Arts Society and Art in the Park in Charlotte.

Mary Pedini earned a BFA from Westfield State University in Massachusetts and has studied at Massachusetts College of Art and Illinois State University. She has exhibited at Artpace Herndon, Crossroads Art Center and Brazier Gallery.

Nidhi Misra studied with Anne Chaddock and has participated in a number of workshops over the years. Her work has been selected for the Virginia Watercolor Society show.

Mary Dean has a degree in art education and a masters in special education. After years of teaching art to others, she is now developing her own talents. She has studied at Woodlake Lifelong Learning Institute and with Christopher Wynn.

MARCH 9 – APRIL 30

JAMES RIVER ART LEAGUE
AT ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5200 Grove Ave., Richmond, VA